

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
DON NICKLES,
PHIL GRAMM,
DAN COATS,
JIM EXON,

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 165. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 956) "An Act to establish legal standards and procedures for product liability litigation, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 148. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States is committed to military stability in the Taiwan Strait and the United States should assist in defending the Republic of China (also known as Taiwan) in the event of invasion, missile attack, or blockade by the People's Republic of China.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 3019, BALANCED BUDGET DOWN PAYMENT ACT, II

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 3019) making appropriations for fiscal year 1996 to make a further downpayment toward a balanced budget, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. OBEY

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. OBEY moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference of the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill, H.R. 3019, be instructed to:

(a) agree to the position in the Senate amendment increasing funding above the levels in the House bill for programs of the Department of Education;

(b) agree to the position in the Senate amendment increasing funding above the levels in the House bill for programs of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(c) agree to the position in the Senate amendment that provides a minimum of \$975,000,000 from within the \$1,903,000,000 pro-

vided for Local Law Enforcement Block Grants within the Department of Justice for the Public Safety and Community Policing grants pursuant to title I of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (COPS on the beat program);

(d) agree to the position in the Senate amendment increasing funding above the levels in the House bill for job training and worker protection programs of the Department of Labor;

(e) agree to the position in the Senate amendment deleting Title V of the House bill placing onerous new red tape requirements on Federal grantees; and

(f) agree to the position in the Senate amendment specifying a maximum grant award of \$2500 under the Pell Grant Program; and

(g) agree to the position in the Senate amendment providing fiscal year 1997 funding of \$1,000,000,000 for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Mr. OBEY (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the motion be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I know Members want to get out of here, and I join in that sentiment. It was not my choice to deal with this issue tonight, but we are dealing with it. So I would like Members to know what it is that we are asking them to vote on.

What we have pending before the House is a motion to go to conference on the long term. The chairman of the committee has just moved that the House go to conference on the long-term continuing resolution. Earlier today, we passed another one of our week-to-week CRs.

Mr. Speaker, the problem we face is that with the five bills that still are not in law, the five appropriation bills for this fiscal year, those bills have come in at a rate of about \$25 billion below the amount being asked for by the President of the United States. The President has indicated that if language differences can be eliminated so that we can remove some of the special interest language provisions that have been inserted in the bill, that he is willing to sign off on the bill if he can get roughly \$8 billion back out of that \$25 billion. So he is asking for about 30 cents on the dollar.

The Senate, rather than providing the 30 cents on the dollar, has added back about \$3.8 billion, which represents about 14 cents out of every dollar that the President wanted. In my view, we are not going to be able to finish that conference by the end of next week unless we can cut through a lot of the fog and recognize that where we have to start in that conference is at the Senate level. So what I am trying to do here tonight is to bring us closer to that point.

What this motion would do is instruct the conferees to accept the Senate increases in education, which would mean increases in Goals 2000, an increase of \$814 million in chapter 1. We are asking to put \$814 million in for title I because we think that we should make it easier, not harder, for kids to learn how to read and to learn how to deal with math.

Mr. Speaker, we are asking to put back \$200 million for safe and drug-free schools because we think that our communities are going to be safer and our kids healthier if they learn at an early age to stay away from drugs.

We are adding \$8 million for charter schools, some additional money in the education area, including vocational and adult education. We are asking to add back \$137 million for Head Start, which is what the Senate has added back. In the Labor Department, we are asking that funding be added back for school-to-work programs, for dislocated worker assistance, for one stop career shopping, for summer youth, \$635 million for summer youth.

Mr. Speaker, we are asking in the Veterans, HUD and independent agencies bill that we add \$115 million for operating programs to the EPA, including enforcement activities, \$300 million for EPA, States and tribal assistance grants, water and wastewater infrastructure financing. The Senate bill added \$50 million or \$150 million for EPA Superfund program. We are asking that we accept the Senate judgment on those programs.

We are also asking to accept the Senate level for the cops on the beat program rather than the House insisting on its block grant program as a substitute for the cops on the beat program. We think that program has been demonstrated to be successful. The President places a very high priority on that item and will not sign a bill, in my judgment, unless we do considerably better than the Senate has done on this program. We intend in conference to insist on a higher level for cops on the beat than the Senate has provided, but what we want to do is to try to begin the process at least recognizing as the Senate did that we have to restore to at least 50 percent of that going in.

Mr. Speaker, we are also asking that Members delete the Istook amendment, which in essence creates a huge blizzard of paperwork on most of the groups who have the temerity to want to comment to their elected Representatives on the actions that we are taking. We think they have that right, and the Istook amendment gets in the way of that.

We are also asking that we restore \$1 billion for the low-income heating assistance program and take the Pell grant program up to maximum grants of \$2,500 rather than the amount in the House bill.

We believe that that is the very minimum that is necessary to get the conference off to a good start. It is my